

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016 - DISTRICT 1 NEWSLETTER

COMMISSIONER BRUCE G. ROBERTS



SEASONS GREETINGS: The Holiday Season is right around the corner so I would like to wish you all a safe and family-filled time. Our District continues to grow with new neighbors, projects and enhancements. We truly appreciate the opportunity to work with and serve you, as we find solutions that will allow the City to remain one of the most beautiful and best cities in which to live, work, play and raise a family. Be safe and let us all welcome 2017 with high spirits, a vision for the future and a pride in our home - Fort Lauderdale!

SURTAX RESOLUTION: This article was in our July/August AND September/October newsletter but I felt it important to repeat: The County Commission held a special meeting on June 24th and took actions to address the Transportation and Infrastructure Surtax issues. The County Commission approved a ½ cent surtax for Transportation and ½ cent surtax for Infrastructure to appear on the November 2016 ballot. If approved by voters, this would raise the sales tax in Broward County from 6% to 7%. According to the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), approximately 31% of this increase would be borne by tourists. The framework for distribution and use of the funds were also approved via an interlocal agreement. The major terms of the Agreement include the following:

- 30 year Transportation and Infrastructure Surtax time period
- ½ cent Transportation tax is allocated 100% to county
- ½ cent Infrastructure tax is allocated 100% to cities (per capita) for 20 years
- Year 21 the infrastructure tax is split between the cities and county with cities receiving 60% and county 40% (10 year split of tax revenues)
- Establishing an independent nine member Transportation and Surtax Oversight Board:
 - One former elected official
 - One former City or County Manager
 - One Certified Public Accountant
 - One member of the Florida Bar
 - One finance professional
 - One urban planning or land use professional
 - One engineering or construction management professional
 - One professional architect
 - One professional environmental scientist

The above Board will be appointed by:

- Designee of the President of Nova Southeastern University
- Designee of the Broward Workshop
- Designee of the Broward County Council of Chambers of Commerce
- The joint designee of the Broward County Auditor and the Broward League of Cities' Auditor
- Director of the Florida Atlantic University Center for Environmental Studies

By the way, one third of all Florida counties have an additional surtax. It is important to note that each ballot question is dependent on the other for passage; voters must approve both or both **fail**. For additional information, please visit our City website or go directly to www.APennyAtWork.com where an interactive site exhibits all of the proposed projects to be funded by this revenue.

2016 BEST OF THE WEB WINNERS DEMONSTRATE TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION, SERVICE DELIVERY IMPROVEMENTS:

The city of Fort Lauderdale website features more than 40 services through its newly redesigned site, which launched in December 2015. The responsive and clean design allows users to navigate through services and the various departments without having to click through cluttered indexes. Additionally the portal is optimized for mobile phones and tablets, and features a feedback option on every page. A sign language translation option is available on each page and translates Web text to sign language for improved ease of use. A custom-built Ethics Trac application offers better transparency in the city by tracking the details of government/lobbyist interactions. This feature eliminates the need for

manual logging and expedites public noticing. The implementation of a citizen request management system lets residents request services and report issues quickly and easily. By using Scorecard, citizens can track progress on key initiatives and look at the city's larger strategic plan.

GALLERIA LIVE PROJECT UPDATE: The project was not approved 6-2 at the Planning & Zoning Board on Wednesday, 10/19/16. At this time, we are not aware of their plans for moving forward. I will keep you updated.

STORMWATER INFORMATION: The City Stormwater system includes more than 171 miles of stormwater pipe, 2,324 manholes, 1,258 outfalls, 37 drainage wells, 8,288 catch basins and 4 pumphouses. From Fiscal Year 2011 to 2016, the City has expended just over \$39,207,000 within the Stormwater program. This equates to approximately \$6,500,000 annually. \$7,082,000 has gone towards Capital Project Improvements (new infrastructure) to address flooding issues and improve stormwater operations. \$32,125,000 has gone towards Operations and Maintenance of the stormwater system, to include staffing, vehicles and equipment that provides for cleaning and repairs of infrastructure, responding to stormwater issues, repair/replacement of stormwater components (catchbasins, pipes, etc.), and swale maintenance and construction. Recognizing the impacts of stormwater and tidal-related flooding issues, in April 2014 the City Commission approved development of a comprehensive Stormwater Master Plan, utilizing a three phase approach over the course of ten years (FY 2014 through FY 2024) to address flooding in the City.

--**Phase I** (FY15 – FY19) consists of 37 localized stormwater projects with known storm or tidal flooding issues at an estimated cost of \$10,027,000. Of these 37 projects, 17 have been completed, 3 are in construction, 9 are in design and 8 are planned for future years. \$2,082,000 has been spent to date, with \$835,000 encumbered and an additional \$3,007,000 available in the FY17 budget.

--**Phase II** (FY 2015 - FY 2018) consists of citywide modeling and analysis to design projects on an area basis. In April, 2016, the City contracted with Hazen and Sawyer to complete citywide hydraulic modeling with risk-adjusted metrics for project valuation. This \$7M+ effort, scheduled for completion in December 2017, will produce designs of stormwater projects for seven priority neighborhoods with insufficient infrastructure and recommendations for the City Commission for a stormwater bond to fund construction of Phase II project.

--**Phase III** (FY 2019 – FY 2024) consists of construction of Phase II projects (\$150M - \$200M) and development of citywide standards for long-term stormwater solutions, incorporating proactive measures to adapt to climate change, future sea level rise impacts, and adoption of higher levels of service (acceptable water levels on the street during weather events) for design. Designs for the remainder of stormwater infrastructure within the City will be completed and is estimated at \$750M+.

SAVE THE DATES:

- 11/7 NWPFH CRA Workshop with Commission-noon; 8th floor conference room
- 11/3-7 **Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show** – <http://www.flibs.com>
- 11/7 **Light Up Lauderdale** - 6pm; Esplanade Park
- 11/9 Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board Workshop with Commission-noon; 8th floor conference room
- 11/24 **6th Annual Turkey Trot** – 7:30am; DC Alexander Park (501 Seabreeze Blvd.)
To register: <http://turkeytrotftl.com>
- 11/29 **Fire Bond Committee Workshop with Commission** – noon; 8th floor conference room
- 11/29 **Christmas on Las Olas** – 5-10pm; E Las Olas Blvd. between SE 6th and SE 11th Avenues
- 12/14 City Commission Investment Policy Workshop

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In addition to hosting two pre-agenda meetings twice a month, I am also available to attend your HOA meetings to update your neighborhood on what is going on in the City as well as answer any questions/concerns you may have. Please contact Robbi to schedule.

EMAIL LIST: If you would like to be on our email list so that you receive information pertaining to the City – especially District 1 (i.e. news releases, meeting notices, events), please let Robbi know and she will add you.